

Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/063 W
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R 241630Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 803
INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 32
USDEL JEC PARIS

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PFOR DA XC
SUBJ: PARLIAMENT BRIEFED ON SOUTHEAST ASIA

REF: COPENHAGEN 0802

SUMMARY: FONMIN K.B. ANDERSEN GAVE PARLIAMENT APRIL 24
THE GOVERNMENT'S EVALUATION OF THE SITUATION IN SOUTH
EAST ASIA. ACCORDING TO HIS ACCOUNT BOTH NORTH AND
SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENTS SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR
THE NON-FULFILLMENT OF THE 1973 PARIS AGREEMENTS BUT
THE HEAVIEST RESPONSIBILITY UNDOUBTEDLY LAY WITH
THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT. ANDERSEN RESTATED DENMARK'S
RECOGNITION POLICY OF 1973, IMPLYING THAT THE GOVERNMENT
WOULD SEEK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENTS
THAT EFFECTIVELY EXERCISE CONTROL OVER THE TERRITORY
THEY CLAIM TO REPRESENT. REGARDING THE US ROLE ANDERSEN
DECLARED THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT'S CONFIDENCE IN THE
US FULFILLING ITS COMMITMENTS AS AN ALLY REMAIN UNSHAKEN.
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END SUMMARY.

1. FONMIN K B ANDERSEN USED THE RAPID DEVELOPMNTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AS THE OCCASION FOR A SEPARATE REPORT TO PARLIAMENT ON THAT ISSUE APRIL 24 THIS BREAK WITH THE NORMAL PRACTICE OF ANNUAL OVERALL FOREIGN POLICY REPORTS TO PARLIAMENT WAS UNDERTAKEN IN RESPONSE TO RECENT CONSERVATIVE PARTY CRITICISM (REFTEL PARA 8) A DEBATE ON SOUTHEAST ASIA DEVELOPMENTS IS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 2.

2. ACCORDING TO OUR FONMIN SOURCES, THE REPORT WAS WORKED OVER FOR HALF THE NIGHT FOLLOWING ANDERSEN'S RETURN YESTERDAY FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA. IN SUM THE FINAL PRODUCT REPRESENTS A STATEMENT OF LONG-HELD SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC VIEWS ON SOUTHEAST ASIAN DEVELOPMENTS AND DOES NOT CONTAIN ANY INDICATIONS OF A CHANGE IN DENMARK'S POLICY IN THAT AREA.

3. ASSESSING THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE NON-FULFILLMENT OF THE PARIS AGREEMENTS OF 1973, ANDERSEN CONCLUDED THAT BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM AT DIFFERENT POINTS OF TIME AND IN DIFFERENT DEGREES VIOLATED THE MILITARY PROVISIONS. BOTH SIDES WERE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLATING THE POLITICAL PROVISIONS OF THOSE AGREEMENTS BUT "THERE IS HARDLY ANY DOUBT THAT THE HEAVIEST RESPONSIBILITY FALLS ON THE SAIGON SIDE", ANDERSEN DECLARED. PRESIDENT THIEU'S RESIGNATION APRIL 22 WAS DESCRIBED AS BEING PROBABLY "TOO LITTLE AND TOO LATE", BUT NEVERTHELESS THE DANISH GOVERNMENT HOPED THAT A POLITICAL SOLUTION SUCH AS THAT DESCRIBED IN THE PARIS AGREEMENTS MIGHT YET SERVE AS THE MOST DESIRABLE MEANS OF AVOIDING CONTINUED VIOLENCE.

4. ANDERSEN ALSO BRIEFLY DISCUSSED THE SITUATION IN BOTH CAMBODIA AND LAOS, HAILING THE PROSPECT THAT THE NEW CAMBODIAN REGIME MIGHT PURSUE A NEUTRAL POLICY AS AN INDEPENDENT AND UNCOMMITTED STATE. HEIGHTENED NORTH VIETNAMESE AND PATHET LAO MILITARY ACTIVITY IN LAOS WAS PRESENTED AS A CAUSE FOR CONCERN.

5. ANDERSEN STATED THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTINUE TO ADHERE TO ITS RECOGNITION POLICY SET DOWN IN 1973 A POLICY THAT HE CLAIMED "REPRESENTS NEITHER SYMPATHY NOR ANTIPATHY BUT DEPENDS PURELY ON OBJECTIVE CRITERIA". HE IMPLIED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL SEEK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THOSE GOVERNMENTS THAT EMERGE IN THE WAR AFFLICTED AREAS THAT EFFECTIVELY ASSERT CONTROL OVER THE AREAS THEY CLAIM TO REPRESENT. UNTIL SUCH TIME THE GOVERNMENT WILL

CONTINUE TO DEVELOP THE CONTACTS, OFFICIAL OR UNOFFICIAL THAT IT HAS HAD ALL ALONG WITH THE BELLIGERENT PARTIES.

6. REGARDING THE US ROLE, ANDRSEN STATED THAT "THERE ARE CIRCLES WHICH TAKE THE MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AS AN OCCASION FOR QUESTIONING THE CREDIBILITY OF THE UNITED STATES AS AN ALLY. THAT I FIND IS UNJUSTIFIED. ON THE CONTRARY THERE IS REASON TO EXPRESS SATISFACTION WITH THE CONSEQUENCES THE US TODAY IS DRAWING FROM THE UNAVOIDABLE TREND OF DEVELOPMENTS. THE GOVERNMENT CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY AND THE WILL OF THE UNITED STATES TO ABIDE BY ITS COMMITMENTS VIS-A-VIS EUROPE IS UNWEAKENED". (THE AMBASSADOR WHO CALLED ON ANDERSEN THIS AFTERNOON ON ANOTHER MATTER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE ABOVE COMMENT. ANDERSEN WAS VISIBLY PLEASED)

7. SECONDLY ANDERSEN SAID THAT DENMARK WOULD CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE SITUATION CLOSELY WITH RESPECT TO THE POSSIBILITY OF DANISH ASSISTANCE. HE CITED THE DKK 12 MILLION EXTRAORDINARY AID APPROPRIATION RECENTLY GRANTED AND THE DKK 30 MILLION REQUEST FOR SUPPORT OF EMERGENCY OPERATIONS BY THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES AND UNICEF IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. THE APRIL 23 DECISION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AGAINST GRANTING NORTH VIETNAM AN INTEREST-FREE LOAN OF DKK 150 MILLION FOR A CEMENT PLANT (SEPTIL) WAS CHARACTERIZED AS "REGRETTABLE" BUT ANDERSEN GAVE NO INDICATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SEEK TO OVERTURN THIS DECISION. CROWE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEECHES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975COPENH01185
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750145-0806
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750418/aaaaaqex.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 COPENHAGEN 0802
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARLIAMENT BRIEFED ON SOUTHEAST ASIA
TAGS: PFOR, DA, XC, (ANDERSEN, K B)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006